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Intelligence Review

President Kennedy moved early in his tenure to abolish a good many of the boards and committees that President Eisenhower had set up. He even dropped regular cabinet meetings and meetings of the National Security Council, preferring his own method of direct consultation and personal decision. Of late however he has summoned the NSC for counsel on Laos and Cuba. And Tuesday he moved to reactivate a board of monitors whose duty it is to weigh intelligence information. To head it he called in Dr. James R. Killian, of Massachusetts Tech, who had been Eisenhower's science adviser.

The Central Intelligence Agency is under fire, spite of the efforts of its apologists to clear it of blame for the collapse of the Cuban invasion. It was the agency that sent the U2 over Russia on the eve of the Paris summit meeting. When the Russians shot it down they used the flight to the limit in anti-American propaganda. It was the CIA which manipulated the Cuban emigres, trying to separate sheep from goats, without too much skill, and furnished money and supplies for the invaders.

The Statesman doesn't have enough information to say what ought to be done with CIA. The San Francisco Chronicle however has a strong opinion on the matter, and we quote:

"The Chronicle is for abolishing the CIA. So are many concerned Americans. We were glad to see reports over the week end that the CIA is at least going to be broken up, with some of its functions transferred to the Defense Department. Though that is not abolition, it is perhaps the next best thing.

"In the Cuban inquiry, which is to say the CIA inquiry, Congress faces one of the greatest responsibilities it has ever met for insuring the survival of free and democratic government in this country. From what has leaked out, piecemeal, about how it secretly organized the Cuban invasion, we are convinced that the CIA and democratic government cannot permanently co-exist. This country must turn to the Peace Corps idea as its means of salvation in the struggle with Soviet ideology, for it is the Peace Corps, and not the CIA, that will help the United States to recapture the free world's confidence."

Gen. Maxwell Taylor heads another group to make a probe of our intelligence organizations. We hope it will be thorough and "intelligent." It looks to us as though we haven't been getting value for the huge sums the CIA has been spending. Frankly it is hard for a democracy to indulge itself permanently in this cloak-and-dagger business.